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Are designer sweats OK to wear clubbing? 14

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KEEPING TABS ON TRUANCY



Some New York City schools are using a new app called
Kininvolved to crack down on absenteeism. 4

ISTOCK

UBER DRIVER CHARGED

1 A Michigan man who worked as an Uber driver was charged with 16 counts, including six for murder, in the fatal weekend shootings of six people in Kalamazoo, documents filed on Monday by a county prosecutor said. Jason Dalton, 45, has been charged with six counts of open murder, punishable by up to life in prison, as well as two counts of assault with intent to commit murder and eight felony firearms violations. **REUTERS**

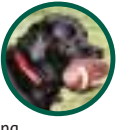


ENCRYPTION COMMISSION

2 Apple urged the creation of a government panel on encryption to help resolve a standoff over national security and data privacy that erupted last week after the technology company refused a U.S. government demand to unlock an iPhone linked to one of the killers in a mass shooting in California. It was the latest move in a public and symbolic showdown between the U.S. government and technology companies, both of which are keen to set a precedent over how far investigators can dictate tech firms handling of customers' data. **REUTERS**

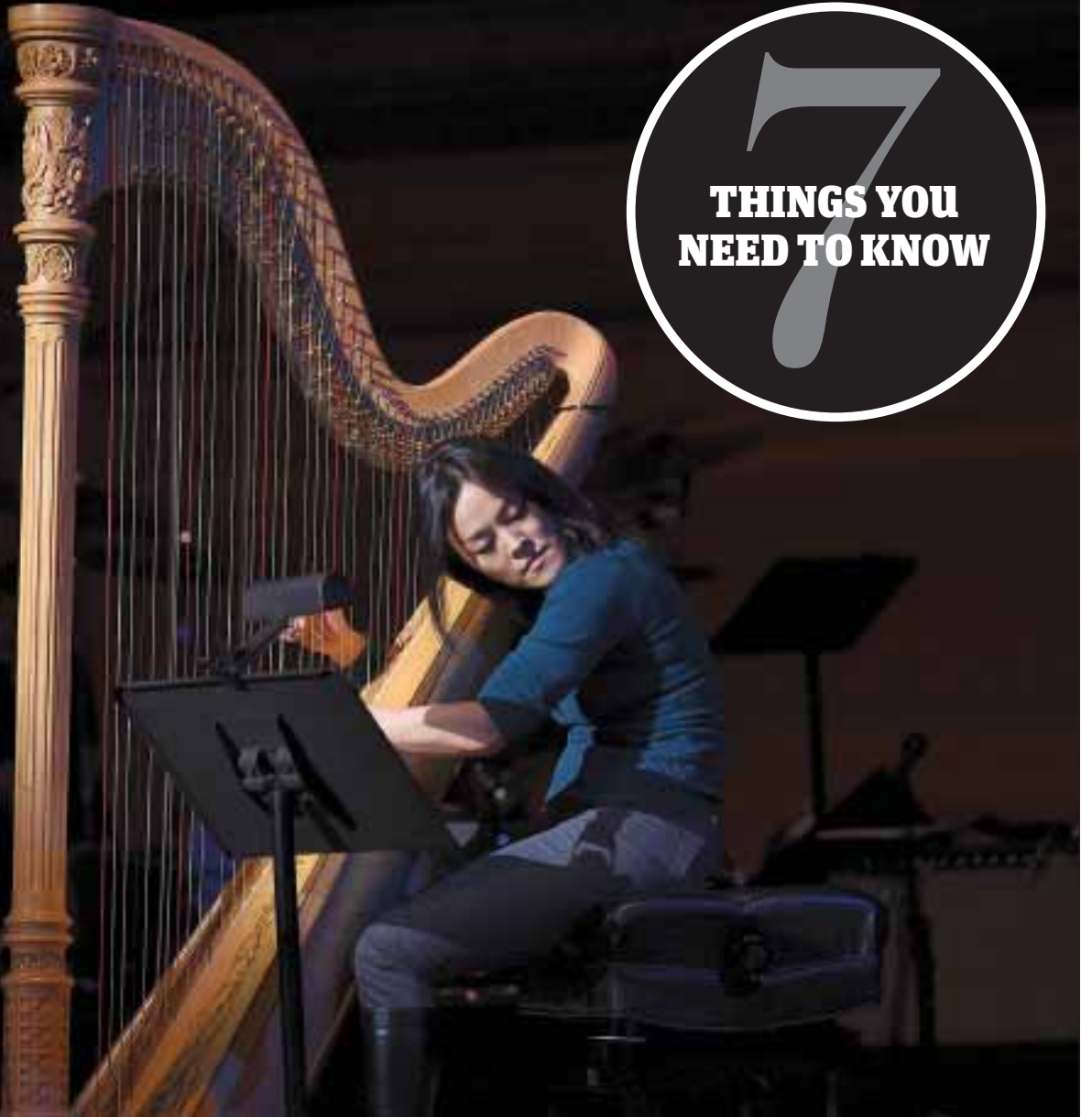
LAB IS STILL TOP US DOG

3 The Labrador retriever retained the title of America's most popular dog breed for the 25th consecutive year, even as the upstart French bulldog stole the limelight in New York and other big U.S. cities, the American Kennel Club said on Monday. The chunky Lab, known for its loping gait and easy-going nature, owes its enduring popularity to its well-deserved reputation as a family pet, said AKC Vice President Gina DiNardo. **REUTERS**



TIBET HOUSE BENEFIT CONCERT

7 Harpist Lavinia Meijer rehearses onstage at the 26th Annual Tibet House U.S. Benefit Concert at Carnegie Hall on Monday.



7
THINGS YOU
NEED TO KNOW

ALL PHOTOS BY GETTY IMAGES

POSSIBLE HATE CRIME

4 A man was rushed to the hospital with severe burns after a trio of men attacked him while using a racial slur and threw boiling water at his face, according to published reports. The incident occurred on Feb. 21 at West Kingsbridge Road and Grand Avenue in the Bronx when the suspects allegedly punched and kicked the victim and called him a "n—," the Daily News reported. One of the men then threw what was believed to be boiling water at the victim's face. Police are now investigating the incident as a hate crime. **ANGY ALTAMIRANO**

ROAD REVIVAL EXTENDS

5 U.S. road travel rose by 4 percent in the nation's warmest December on record, government data showed on Monday, and capped a record-setting driving renaissance amid cheap gasoline prices and lower unemployment. Defying expectations that rapid year-on-year increases in driving would abate as motorists got used to low pump prices, drivers logged 264.2 billion miles on U.S. roads and highways in December, the most ever for the month, according to the U.S. Department of Transportation. **REUTERS**

CRUZ SPOKESMAN FIRED

6 A YouTube video of Marco Rubio filmed by a UPenn student has struck at the heart of the GOP presidential race. Cruz fired his main spokesman, Rick Tyler, on Monday afternoon over a video that falsely showed Rubio dismissing the Bible. Tyler had apologized late on Sunday for posting "an inaccurate story" involving a video purporting to show Rubio referring to the Bible and saying, "Not many answers in it." Tyler had retweeted a link to the misleading video and posted it on Facebook. Rubio was speaking to a Cruz staffer at the time. **REUTERS**

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(SMILE)

App alerts parents of truant kids

Kinvolved allows teachers to notify parents if their kids play hooky.

ANGY ALTAMIRANO
@MetroNewYork
letters@metro.us

Finding out how your child is doing in school —

and if they are actually going to class — is now just a swipe or text message away.

Parents and teachers are now able to connect through the app Kinvolved, which allows both parties to communicate on a live and daily basis to discuss how children are doing at school.

Through the app, teachers are able to track daily attendance and lateness and send parents real-time text messages or emails letting them know what is going on with their children.

“Our goal is for students to show up so the teachers have the opportunity to teach the

kids,” said co-founder Miriam Altman.

The idea for Kinvolved was born after Altman connected with Alexandra Meis over the issue of attendance at schools and the overall effect it had on students’ education.

Altman, who was a teacher in the New York City public school system

until 2011, and Meis, a parent advocate, each added different perspectives to the ongoing issue plaguing New York City schools.

After winning a competition on developing an application that could improve an issue seen in everyday life, Kinvolved was launched in beta testing in 2012.

Since then about 100 schools — most of which are city public schools serving students in high-need communities — are using the app.

Kinvolved lets teachers track attendance and can send automated notification to parents in six different languages and parents are able to respond directly to the message, either through the mobile app or via their computers.

The notifications can also communicate about other topics such as updates on upcoming tests, dates for parent-teacher conferences and information on specific students.

Overall, in the long term, they would like to also be able to coordinate the data that comes through the application and correlate it with graduation rates at the schools.

“Our end goal is to im-

prove the graduation rate,” Altman said. “We are very proud to be doing this work. ... And there is a lot of proof in the value of this.”

The proof has been great for Karoline Alexander, a community

school director at P.S. 154 in Harlem, who has been using the app for about a year and has seen a great impact at the school.

“I love it. It’s a really great tool to not only track attendance but also to contact our parents,” Alexander said. “This year it has been a huge boost for our family engagement.”

She added that prior to the app coming to the school, robocalls were used to alert parents of any student absence. However, many times the numbers for parents were wrong and messages were never received.

Now with the app, Alexander said parents are actually making sure their numbers are updated and are constantly engaging with teachers through email or texts. Parents alert teachers of their child’s absence or lateness, and, according to Alexander, attendance has gone up 2 percent at the school since last year.



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Through Kinvolved (shown at top), teachers can let parents know when their children are absent or late from class. **KINVOLVED**

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Altman

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New survey finds least friendly NYC borough

A full 38 percent called one borough the "least desirable" New York borough.

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OF NEW YORKERS
ARGUE ABOUT NOISE
WITH NEIGHBORS

JASON NUCKOLLS
@MetroNewYork
letters@metro.us

A survey of New York's five boroughs has uncovered opinions about what neighbors complain about the most and which borough has the friendliest residents.

In a survey of 1,000 New Yorkers conducted by real estate search engine Homes.com, Manhattan was deemed the friendliest borough, with 27 percent of respondents calling it friendly, while the Bronx was the least agreeable, with only 7 percent of respondents calling it friendly.

The Bronx is also the borough that respondents wanted least to live in, with a full 38 percent calling it the "least desirable" New York borough, Homes.com added.

New Yorkers talk to their neighbors more than the average American, with 71 percent of residents speaking to their neighbors on a weekly basis while only 64 percent of coast-to-coast Americans can say the same, Homes.com reported.

Forty-six percent of New Yorkers have argued with their neighbors about noise, making it the single largest reason to argue, with parking next at 26 percent, Homes.com added. Nationally, only 18 percent of Americans have complained to their neighbors about noise.



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Buddy, the Chihuahua. RANDY CAPEHART, FACEBOOK

Man kills boyfriend's pet dog in jealous rage

Police were called to a small park near East 78th Street and FDR Drive by parents whose children witnessed the killing.



JASON NUCKOLLS
@MetroNewYork
letters@metro.us

An Upper East Side man has been arrested for stabbing his boyfriend's dog to death in front of passersby in a park.

Jose Rodriguez, 39, has been charged with aggravated cruelty to animals, criminal mischief and weapons possession after a horrifying Saturday morning incident in which he stabbed his boyfriend's small dog, Buddy, to death with a kitchen knife, the New York Daily News reported.

"Apparently, my former partner had a psychotic break,"

The dog's owner, to the Post.

Police were called to a small park near East 78th Street and FDR Drive by parents whose children witnessed the killing, the New York Post reported in a related article.

Rodriguez was still covered in Buddy's blood when police arrived, the Daily News added. He was arrested at the scene.

Rodriguez and his boyfriend, Randy Capehart, had been in a quarrel, and Rodriguez suspected Capehart of cheating when Capehart had to leave town for his grandmother's funeral in Texas, the Post reported.

Capehart had entrusted Rodriguez with caring for Buddy, a Chihuahua, while he was out of town.

"Apparently, my former partner had a psychotic break," Capehart said to the Post.

BRIEFS

Central Park accident leaves driver dead after being hit by own van

A man was killed Monday morning when he was struck by a construction van in Central Park.

Around 7 a.m. near the corner of 75th Street and East Drive by the boathouse, the driver of a construction van stopped and exited his van to look at something, CBS reported. Seconds later, the van hit the man.

The victim was reportedly pronounced dead at the scene, the New York Daily News added in a related article.

Whether the van was in drive or neutral, or if it had a malfunction, remains unclear, according to CBS. JASON NUCKOLLS

Man attacked, burned with boiling water in possible Bronx hate crime: Reports

A 50-year-old man was rushed

to the hospital with severe burns after a trio of men attacked him while using a racial slur and threw boiling water at his face, according to reports.

The incident occurred at about 8:55 p.m. on Feb. 21 at West Kingsbridge Road and Grand Avenue in the Bronx, when the suspects allegedly punched and kicked the victim and called him a "n—r," the Daily News reported. One of the men then threw what was

believed to be boiling water at the victim's face.

The victim — later identified as Thomas Kornell — was taken to Jacobi Medical Center and treated for severe burns to his face, according to the New York Post.

The suspects were described to be two Hispanic men and one black man, the Post reported.

Police are now investigating the incident as a hate crime.

JASON NUCKOLLS

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Photo by Artyom Makeyev.



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Man sought in SI office rape, robbery

Scott is known around the Mariners Harbor, New Brighton, West Brighton and Stapleton areas of the borough.

Police are seeking a man for questioning in relation to a Staten Island rape and robbery last Friday.

The NYPD is looking for Maurice Scott, 28, in connection to an incident at 5:30 p.m. on Friday when a woman was raped and robbed inside on office building on Forest Avenue in Mariners Harbor, police reported.

Scott is alleged to have entered the building and raped the woman before fleeing with her jewelry, Samsung cellphone and cash, authorities stated.

He is described as



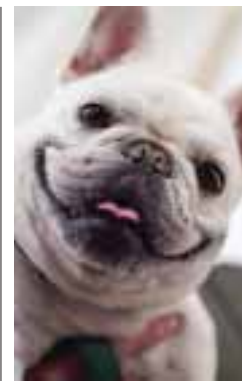
Maurice Scott NYPD

black, 6 feet tall and 290 pounds with a heavy build. He also has a star tattooed on his left cheek.

According to police, Scott is known around the Mariners Harbor,

New Brighton, West Brighton and Stapleton areas of Staten Island.

He was last seen in a green camouflage baseball hat and jacket and black pants, police added. **METRO**



Frenchie TOM WILLIAMS

French bulldog still most popular dog breed in NYC

This top dog is not going anywhere.

For the second year in a row, the American Kennel Club has revealed that in 2015 the French bulldog was named the most popular dog in New York City.

The breed — which first took the top spot in 2014 — also managed to jump three spots nationwide, going from ninth in 2014 to ranking the sixth most popular breed for in all the United States for 2015.

Although the French bulldog holds the No. 1 spot for the whole city, it isn't the most popular breed in every neighborhood, according to the AKC. It is popular in areas such as Murray Hill, Washington Heights, Chelsea, the Financial District and Park Slope.

Bulldogs are the most popular in Tribeca, the East Village and Astoria, while Labrador retrievers — who were named the most popular breed in the nation for the 25th consecutive year — reign on the Upper West Side.

Cavalier King Charles spaniels are the most popular on the Upper East Side, German Shepherds in New Dorp, Staten Island, and Havanese take the No. 1 spot in Riverside.

ANGY ALTAMIRANO

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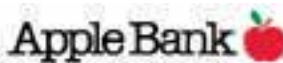
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FEELING LUCKY?

The Dems have Las Vegas in the rearview mirror, but the Repubs are roaring up on it like a bureaucratic bachelor party. On both sides of the presidential race, the stakes are rising rapidly as the big Super Tuesday votes loom. Here's what to watch this week in politics:

Three of a Kind?

Republican voters will caucus in Nevada Tuesday and Donald Trump is hoping promising polls will deliver him his third win in a row. But many eyes will once again be on the race for second and third — Marco Rubio and Ted Cruz in particular will be watching



BILLY BECERRA

TOM FOREMAN

Opinion

CNN's Tom Foreman is the author of the new book "My Year of Running Dangerously."



closely. That said, don't expect any of the remaining campaigners to bow out immediately no matter how it goes. They'll let it ride until at least the first week of March, but then Jeb Bush and the others who have already abandoned the race may have more company on the golf course.

Hit Me Again, Dealer

On the Dem side, CNN will hold another town hall meeting the same day of the GOP Nevada caucus. Watch for Sanders and Clinton to hit each other hard. She is encouraged after the win in the west, but knows she is not in the clear yet. He is steadily grinding away at voting blocs she thought she could reliably build upon, and she has not had a particularly strong win yet to dispel doubts about her electability. She needs a big win when South Carolina Democrats vote on Saturday. As for Sanders, he knows he's playing in potentially hostile territory so all that matters: Does he beat expectations?

Know When to Hold 'Em

Meanwhile, over at the White House, President Obama is scrutinizing possible Supreme Court nominees. When we finally get a name watch the war erupt: If he chooses a liberal, GOPers will accuse him of just trying to start a fight. If he goes with a moderate, some stalwarts on the Republican side will instantly revive their original complaint: The next president should make that choice.

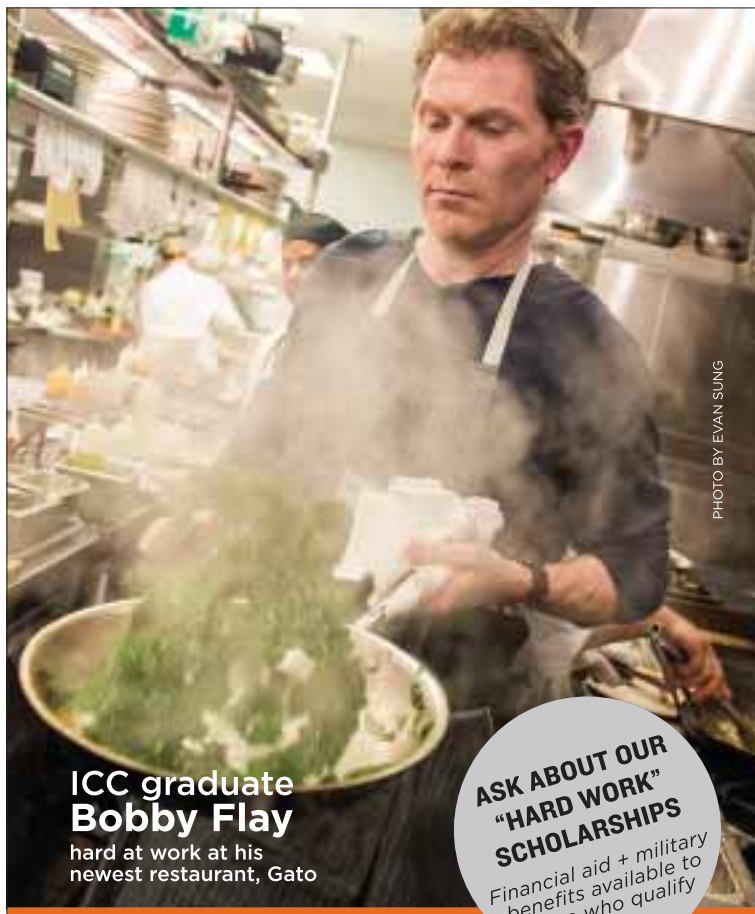


PHOTO BY EVAN SUNG

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Atlantic City mayor calls NJ takeover plan 'fascist dictatorship'

Details of proposed legislation, released last week, would deny residents their civil rights by stripping municipal powers from locally elected officials, Mayor Don Guardian said Monday, echoing previous concerns from community activists.

Atlantic City's mayor has called a state plan to cede control of the fiscally distressed gambling hub a "fascist dictatorship," a sharp reversal of his previous position on the proposed takeover.

"The final piece of legislation that the state presented to us was far



Atlantic City GETTY IMAGES

New Jersey Gov. Chris Christie and state Senate President Steve Sweeney in support of the intervention. However, that was before the bills had taken shape.

City officials previously threatened to file for a municipal bankruptcy. But such a move would likely not be approved by the state, which already oversees the city's budget.

Nevertheless, officials raised the subject again Monday, saying they might petition the state for a bankruptcy declaration if they cannot negotiate a settlement with the Borgata Casino Hotel & Spa.

Atlantic City owes the Borgata, its most profitable casino, at least \$160 million of property-tax appeals. The city missed a recent deadline to pay a \$62.5 million portion of that, prompting the Borgata to skip its \$7.5 million tax payment for the first quarter of 2016.

The parties are in 45-day court-ordered negotiations, Guardian said, but if there is no settlement the city could try to seek out bankruptcy. **RELTERS**

from a partnership," Guardian said, addressing hundreds of residents and city workers at an outdoor news conference next to City Hall. "It was much worse. It was absolutely a fascist dictatorship."

The plan calls for the state to appoint an official who would have the power to make unilateral decisions about canceling collective bargaining agreements, selling city-owned assets, entering contracts, terminating employees and vetoing city council minutes, Guardian said.

The mayor's comments marked a fiery change of tone from just a month ago, when Guardian stood next to

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- My toes aren't straight—they are all cocked-up, bent and hurt.
- I have painful calluses on the ball of my foot which keep building up.
- I have corns on my toes which get thick no matter what shoe size I wear.
- The bottom of my heel hurts all day, but it's worse when I step out of bed in the morning.
- I have cramps in my legs which always happen when I walk the same distance.
- My ankles are swollen most of the time.
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Islamic State forces shrink, as does their pay: US intelligence

U.S. estimates of the number of Islamic State fighters in Iraq and Syria have been reduced while cuts in their pay are evidence they are on the defensive, a spokesman for the U.S.-led coalition fighting the group said on Monday.

But the task of defeating Islamic State is complicated by Russian airstrikes in Syria which are 90 percent targeted at opposition fighters and not at the jihadist group, U.S. Army Colonel Steve Warren said.

Warren said increases in forced conscription, the recruitment of child soldiers and the use of elite fighters in common units were all evidence that Islamic State was seeing a slowing in the influx of foreign fighters.

"We believe that Daesh is now beginning to lose. We see them in a defensive crouch," Warren told reporters in



Smoke billows following an airstrike by the U.S.-led coalition. GETTY IMAGES

London, using an Arabic acronym for Islamic State.

U.S. intelligence estimates of the number of Islamic State fighters, which for the first 17 months of coalition operations ranged from 19,000 to 31,000, had been revised to 20,000 to 25,000 — a level he said the group would struggle to maintain.

"They have been able to replenish their forces at roughly the same rate as we've been able to kill their forces.

That's hard to sustain," he said.

Warren said that until recently the average local Islamic State fighter was paid about \$400 a month, while foreign fighters, who tended to be "better" because they were more committed and fanatical, were on \$600 to \$800 a month.

However, recent announcements by the group and other evidence suggested that common fighters' pay had been cut by half, while it had also reduced pay for the foreign recruits, though perhaps not by such a large proportion, he said.

Warren said the group had lost 40 percent of the territory it once controlled in Iraq, and 10 percent in Syria, where the coalition's job was much harder, partly due to the Russian airstrikes.

REUTERS



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Here's your first look at Saint West

During all this "Life of Pablo" and "SNL" non-sense with Kanye West, have you just been asking yourself, "Enough already — when are we going to get to see his newborn son?" You might be a little weirdly preoccupied, but Kim Kardashian has your back anyway. The social media maven unveiled the first look at her and West's baby boy on her website and

app, posting a pic of young Saint slumbering with adorably raised arms. Who knows, maybe he's jamming out to "Formation" and not just napping. "Today is my dad's birthday," Kardashian writes alongside the image. "I know there's nothing more in the world he would have wanted than to meet his grandchildren. So I wanted to share this pic of



KIM KARDASHIAN / INSTAGRAM

Saint with you all." The Internet appreciates it too, Kim.

Hillary Clinton looking for some of that Kylie Jenner mojo



In Hillary Clinton's quest to secure that elusive youth vote, one Jenner sister just isn't enough. While Clinton has already picked up a friendly backing via Instagram by Kendall Jenner, she knows the real prize is Kylie Jenner's support. "Hillary has been really worried about her support with millennials. She has a great relationship with the Kardashians, so her people have been trying to get Kylie Jenner to endorse her," a source close to the campaign tells Radar Online. "Hillary is courting Kylie because she needs the help and she thinks it will help her connect to a younger demographic. Kylie is the perfect age to support Hillary now and she has exactly what Hillary needs. She's 18 and she has over 50 million followers on Instagram." Sure, but does Kanye West get to weigh in on this deal, too?



@TheRock
Mornin' mornin'.. let's get to work.



@ElizabethBanks
It's 1:30 AM why am I still awake I have two freaking kids.

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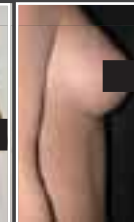
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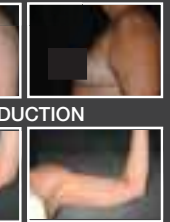
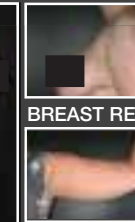
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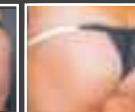
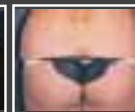
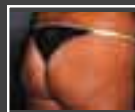
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Can you really wear sweatpants anywhere?

The handlers controlling the velvet ropes tell it to us straight.



EMILY LAURENCE
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As we saw at New York Fashion Week, the activewear trend is still going strong. Besides Kanye's Yeezus line, Rihanna's debut Puma collection also featured sweats.

And wouldn't it be nice to roll up to the club in sweatpants instead of an uncomfortable thigh-bearing miniskirt? To find out if it truly is socially acceptable to wear designer loungewear anywhere, we reached out to a few peo-

ple who control the velvet ropes at some of the city's most exclusive haunts.

At PHD Lounge, it's a hard no. "The glam and style of nightlife is still important to ensure a seamless entry into a venue like PHD Terrace or PHD Rooftop Lounge," says Laurent Baud, the director of marketing and promotions for PHD Terrace.

This would most likely disappoint Alexander Wang, who kicked off the whole activewear trend in 2014 with his H&M capsule collection. Wang told us one of his ideas for the collection was "sports at night." For him, it was never really about the gym. "I don't work out, but I wear gym clothes almost every day," he told us.

There's a little bit more flexibility at swanky cocktail lounge Skylark. "We're not looking for people to roll up in their high school lacrosse sweats, but with everyone from Stella McCartney to Y-3, Fendi, Versace and Chanel making great activewear, our door people need to keep an eye out for guests who show up looking stylish and put together, not sloppy or lazy," says David Rabin, who is a partner for Skylark.

While activewear is definitely more socially acceptable outside yoga class than it used to be, it looks like you have to take your chances when it comes to this trend. At least, for now.



A look from Fig & Viper's fall 2015 collection.
ALL PHOTOS
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Adidas sweatpants aren't just for the locker room anymore.

Rita Ora gets away with looking like she rolled out of bed, threw on some makeup, heels and was out the door.

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3 Book events to check out this week

Whoever said book events were dull is clearly mistaken. This week, there are events for rock fans, comics geeks, booze hounds and even a little something for the kids.

"Living Like a Runaway" with Lita Ford

Feb. 23, 6 p.m.
Barnes & Noble Tribeca
97 Warren St., 212-587-5389
Store.barnesandnoble.com/event

Here's your chance to meet a rock legend. Former guitarist, vocalist and songwriter for the Runaways, Lita Ford, is releasing a tell-all and throwing a big event at Barnes & Noble to celebrate. She'll share stories from her time in the band in a discussion led by music journalist Jeanna Fury.



Lita Ford will be at Barnes & Noble promoting her book, "Life as a Runaway" Feb. 23. GETTY IMAGES

"Flashd: Sudden Stories in Comics and Prose"

Feb. 26, 7 p.m.
BookCourt
163 Court St., Brooklyn, 718-875-3677
Bookcourt.com/events
There are going to be so

many awesome authors and illustrators at this event, so be prepared to geek out. Anna North ("The Life and Death of Sophie Stark"), Ben Greenman ("The Slippage"), Jason Little ("Borb" and "Motel Art Improvement Service") and Dean Haspiel ("Beef With Tomato") will all be there. Oh, and there will also be free booze!

Happy Birthday, Dr. Seuss

Feb. 27, 11:30 a.m.
McNally Jackson Booksellers
52 Prince St., 212-274-1160
McNallyjackson.com/event
Dr. Seuss' birthday is technically March 2, but McNally Jackson is celebrating early with a whole Super Seuss Saturday full of activities and storytelling. The event is free, so bring your kids and have a blast. EMILY LAURENCE

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joint – always with the use of a advanced medical imaging - it is like putting oil on a rusty door hinge. It cushions the joint and can decrease pain and promote healing. This is not cortisone and has no side effects. For some, results can be dramatic and last for months - if not longer. *The earlier you treat the hip, the better chance it can help you.*

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MAKE HEALTHY YOUR NEW HAPPY

Mark Wahlberg's fitness secret

His trainer tells us how it's done.



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We asked Wahlberg's trainer and Brik Fitness owner Brian Nguyen what us regular people can do to bulk up Marky Mark style and he shared one of Wahlberg's secrets: Power Plate. The strengthening tool uses vibration technology to stimulate muscles to contract faster than they can on their own. It helps tone whatever muscles you are targeting. All your favorite body resistance strength-training moves can be done with the Power Plate, which now comes in a smaller version specifically designed for us New Yorkers with tiny apartments. Here, Nguyen tells us the three moves he makes Wahlberg do.

Warm Up

What: Combination of glute stretch and low back stretch.

Why: Stretching glutes and the lower back allow you to better perform athletics as well as everyday activities.

How: Sit upright in the middle of the plate — feet in front of you. Bring your right knee toward your left shoulder and hold it there with left hand. Press start and rotate your upper body to the right as far as you comfortably can. Reverse and repeat with other leg. Hold for 30 to 60 seconds on each side.



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Cool Down: Down Dog Stretch

What: Stretches lats, low back, hamstrings and calves.

Why: Prevents muscle tightness and soreness.

How: Start with hands on the plate and toes curled to floor. Start the plate and press your bum up and back away from your hands, allowing your heels to contact the ground. Allow your head to drop between your arms, ideally forming an upside-down V with 90 degree angle at the hips. Hold for 60 seconds.



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McIlrath bringing a level of 'old school' to Rangers

The defenseman is winning over the MSG crowd.

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If you closed your eyes and listened to the sound reverberating throughout Madison Square Garden, you were transported to a time that has since been relegated to the National Hockey League's history.

The roar was equal parts bloodlust, vengeance, revenge and appreciation for a job done, 39 seconds into the Flyers-Rangers resumption of hostilities earlier this month.

There was Dylan McIlrath, paired with newly-minted Flyers villain Wayne Simmonds. Simmonds had earned the disdain of the Rangers and the fanbase for landing a gloved punch to the jaw



Dylan McIlrath isn't afraid to throw down. GETTY IMAGES

of Ryan McDonagh 10:36 into the Blueshirts' 3-2 win over the Flyers in Philadelphia on Feb. 6, leaving the Rangers captain concussed.

The rematch at the Garden would be the Rangers' first chance to exact the frontier justice promised by Tanner Glass

and others.

Buzz grew during warmups as McIlrath and Simmonds engaged in a not-so-friendly discussion. Neither was on the ice for the opening face-off, but after a stoppage of play, both hopped over the boards.

Anticipation morphed

into reality. Gloves were dropped, punches were thrown, Simmonds was bloodied and McIlrath explored the 18,006 in attendance to use their voices to shake down the heavens. Twenty seconds later, Glass decisioned Ryan White, and the Rangers were on their way to a 3-1 win over their hated rival.

"There is no doubt that guys were sticking up for [Ryan McDonagh] with what happened in [Philadelphia]," Alain Vigneault said after the game. "I can't say I'm displeased about seeing that,

Up next

The Rangers are on the road this week, beginning with the Devils tonight at 7 (MSG). New Jersey is 29-24-7 on the season, battling for one of the final playoff seeds in the East. Meanwhile, the Rangers have the third-best record in the conference at 34-19-6. The Blueshirts will face the Blues on Thursday and Dallas on Saturday.

been criticized as Anaheim Ducks defenseman Cam Fowler and St. Louis Blues sniper Vladimir Tarasenko were still on the board when the Rangers selected the kid nicknamed "The Undertaker" in the tough Western Hockey League.

Factor in a dislocated kneecap, forcing an extended gestation period with the Rangers' AHL affiliate in Hartford, and the word "bust" was linked to McIlrath, even as organizational decision makers swore he was progressing.

He proved them right during training camp and the preseason, where he earned a job as essentially the seventh defenseman. McIlrath has a slash line of 2-1-3 and 51 penalty minutes in 26 games while providing the kind of physicality the Vigneault-era Rangers are not known for.

"I wanted to send a message. I wanted to stick up for my teammate, our captain, our best player. I can respect [Simmonds] for squaring up with me, and I'm just happy how it all worked out," McIlrath said of his fight. "You could see the crowd got into it right away."

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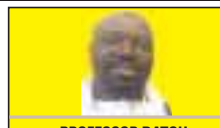


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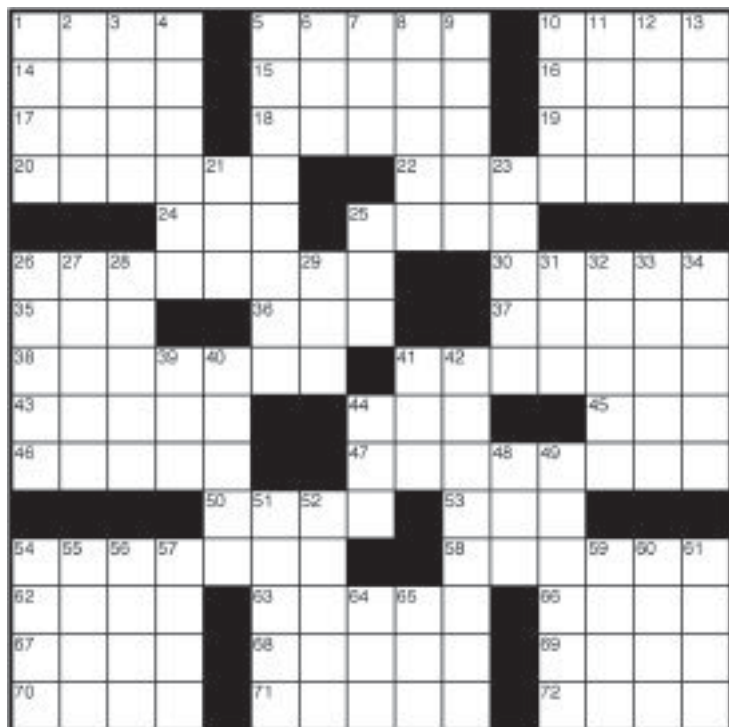
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hard

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	5	7		6			3
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Taurus If you involve yourself in events that interest you, you will meet someone worthwhile. A change in attitude will take place if you are subject to a different way of doing things.



Gemini Your dedication will lead to prosperity. Now is not the time to let someone else handle your affairs or manipulate your mind. Do what's best for you. Romance is favored.



Cancer Partnerships, new friendships and educational events will add to your knowledge and improve your life. Changes at home will be comforting.



Leo Your charm and ability to entertain will draw interest in whatever you do or say. A change at work or in an important partnership looks promising.



Virgo Emotional matters will surface. Don't give in when you should be setting a standard that puts an end to anyone trying to take advantage of you.

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Libra Do whatever makes you feel good and eases your stress. A change in a partnership will be in your best interest. Be willing to walk away if you don't like what's being offered.



Scorpio Take an unconventional route. You'll feel more at ease if you avoid letting anyone dictate what you can and cannot do. Strive for excellence if you want to be given greater freedom.



Sagittarius Proceed with caution. Refuse to give anyone information that might jeopardize your position or plans. Emotional manipulation is present and will lead to setbacks.



Capricorn Sign contracts and put in writing any personal commitment you want to make. An unusual concept or plan you shelved will be perfect for the current economic climate.



Aquarius You need a change. An enjoyable service or skill will help supplement your income. Tweak your appearance in order to stand out and set a new trend.



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